

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
USS Lead Response - SitRep #50



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 5

Subject: SitRep #50
USS Lead Response
East Chicago, IN

To: U.S.S. Lead Response Distribution List

Through: Jim Mitchell, Incident Commander
From: Alicia Brown, Situation Unit Leader

Date: 11/7/16
Reporting Period: 11/02/16, 1500 hours – 11/7/16, 1500 hours



EPA Overseeing Property Excavation in Zone 3

(Credit: Tim Drexler, November 7, 2016)

Section 1: Introduction & Site Background

The U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc. (USS Lead) site is located in East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana. A copper smelter, lead refinery and secondary lead smelter operated on-site from the 1920s to 1985. Smelting operations volatilized metals including lead and arsenic. Some lead-containing dust was wind deposited on the area soils during these operations. Blast furnace slag was stockpiled south of the plant building and spread once a year over an adjoining wetland south of the Site. The primary contaminants of concern are lead and arsenic which are present in exposed soils and subsequently could be tracked into the area residences.

EPA listed the USS Lead site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2009. The site includes part of the former USS Lead facility along with nearby commercial, municipal and residential areas. The overall site has been divided into three zones. The Removal Program is currently addressing soil and residential contamination in Zone 1 and specifically at the West Calumet Housing Complex (WCHC). Mulch has been placed over all exposed soils at the WCHC. Indoor sampling has been conducted in a subset of WCHC homes and analytical results are being validated. Teams have been mobilized to communicate directly with residents, develop temporary relocation procedures, develop cleaning procedures, and initiate outdoor sampling. The Remedial Program is currently collecting samples in Zones 2 and 3, and the analytical results will be evaluated for other potential areas needing remediation.

EPA is working in a Multi-Agency Coordination Team with the City of East Chicago, the East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA), the State of Indiana, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

1.1 Incident Command Post

The U.S. EPA Incident Command Post (ICP) is located in the Carrie Gosch Elementary School at 455 E 148th St, East Chicago, IN 46312. The staging area for the response is located at E. 149th Place and McCook Avenue, East Chicago, IN 46312.

1.2 Objectives

- Ensure health and safety of the public and response personnel.
- Provide and manage necessary communications, both internally and externally.
- Continue home cleaning and temporary relocation for residents in Zone 1.
- Continue sampling, as appropriate, in all zones.
- Conduct soil excavation, backfill, and restoration in Zones 2 and 3.
- Effective command, communications and control from job-site to Region 5 and EPA HQ.
- Manage media inquiries for accuracy and relay contamination results/lead levels to families.
- Effective temporary relocations for families with minimal disruptions to daily lifestyle.
- Continue planning for future demobilization.

1.3 Staffing

As of 1500 hours, 121 people were checked in either on site or in the EOC today. For more detailed staffing information, see **Section 3: Metrics Table**

Section 2: Activities during Reporting Period

2.1 Incident Command

- Attended OPS call with EPA senior management and HQ at 0900 on 11/3/16.
- Attended East Chicago report out with Command and General Staff and Regional Management at 1500 on 11/4/16.

2.2 Sampling Team

- Collected indoor dust samples at one residence in Zone 3.
- All six air monitoring locations are in place and operating.

2.3 Community Involvement Team

- For the reporting period, total contacts as of 1500 is 33 for all zones (including walk-ins, outgoing calls, home visits, and incoming calls).
- Answered the EPA hotline (219-801-2199).
- Scheduled zero appointment with residents for relocation interviews.
- Scheduled one appointment with residents for dust sampling.

2.4 Interview/Relocation Team

- Zero interviews; all have been completed.

- As of 10/28/16, EPA has made contact with all 350 units in Zone 1. All have either been scheduled for cleaning, refused EPA cleaning, or cleaning has been completed. All cleaning is expected to be completed by Friday 11/4/16.
- All relocation and cleaning process has been completed on Saturday 11/5/16.

2.5 Liaison

- No liaison activities conducted this reporting period.

2.6 Public Information

- No activities conducted this reporting period.

2.7 Safety

- No injuries or illness reported this period.
- Routine site safety inspections and monitoring continuing as required.

2.8 Finance

- Reminder to check the R5EOC email from 8/29/16 at 1038 for USS Lead Deployment accounting codes. Do not use 2016 accounting codes!
- If you have any questions regarding site costs, contact the Incident Commander, Jim Mitchell.

2.9 Remedial (Zones 2 & 3)

- EPA continues to receive validated results for soil sampling in Zone 2.
- Excavation has started at over half the total number of properties planned for this year in Zone 3, and half will be completed in the next few days.
- During the reporting period, collected one Access Agreement in Zone 3.
- As of 1500, 452 properties have been sampled in Zone 2 and 416 in Zone 3.
- Zone 2 updates:
 - Indoor dust samples were collected at four priority site.
 - Property pre-elevation surveys are being conducted.
 - During the reporting period, two access agreement was signed in Zone 2.

2.10 Data Management

- Continued daily data loading and GIS webviewer development.
- Coordinated with START Contractor (SRS) equipment logistics requirements to perform air monitoring and sampling in Zone 3.
- Continued development of i-forms to support field remediation activities.

Section 3: Metrics Table

Area of Sites	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Total	
Metric	Reporting Period Total (11/2/16 – 11/7/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (11/2/16 – 11/7/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (11/2/16 – 11/7/16)	Cumulative Total	Reporting Period Total (11/2/16 – 11/7/16)	Cumulative Total
Community Involvement								
Interactions with Residents in Zones 1-3 (walk-ins, outgoing/incoming calls, home visits, etc.); includes multiple contacts with the same people								1429
Temporary Relocation								
Relocation Interviews Conducted	0	0					0	263
Cleaning Access Agreements Signed	0	0					0	263
Declined Cleaning	-	-					-	37
Currently Relocated Residences	0							
Homes Cleaned	-	-					-	259
Belongings Cleaned (No relocation)	0	0					0	3
Households Returned Home	8	8					8	261
Vacant Units Per ECHA	-	-					-	28
Outdoor Soil Sampling								
Total Properties		-		596		468	-	1064
Total Priority Properties (1200 Pb/68 As)	-	-	4	32	-	39	-	71
Access agreement signed (outdoor soil sampling)	-	-	2	491	1	419	3	910
Access denied	-	-	-	6	-	16	-	22
Not yet contacted	-	-	-	101	-	33	-	134
Properties Soil Sampled	-	-	14	452	-	416	8	868
Indoor Dust Sampling								
Properties Scheduled for Indoor Dust Sampling Appointments	1	246	0	-	2	-	4	252
Total Properties with Indoor Dust Samples Collected*	0	270	0	15	1	33	1	308

Area of Sites	Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Total	
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Residences Verbally Contacted about Sampling Results Prior to Mailing Letters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131
Result Letters Sent to Residents	24	235	-	3	-	2	24	240
Pre-Excavation Tap Water Sampling (Priority Property)								
Access denied			1	2	1	2	2	4
Properties with Tap Samples Collected			0	8	1	33	1	41
Properties provided bottled water			2	2	5	26	7	28
Water Sampling Not Applicable (e.g., vacant lot, apartment building)			0	5	0	1	0	7
Remedial Action (Priority Properties only for Zones 2 and 3)**								
Total properties targeted for remedial action (Excavation, Backfill, restoration)			-	16	-	39	-	55
Access Agreements Signed			1	14	6	38	7	52
Access denied			0	1	0	0	1	1
Properties with Excavation completed			2	0	4	22	2	18
Volume of Soil removed (cubic yards)			432	512	540	4501	972	5003
Properties with back-fill completed			2	2	1	14	3	16
Properties with topsoil completed			2	2	2	14	4	16
Properties with restoration completed			0	0	2	14	2	14
Properties that meet maintenance period end date (30 days after restoration)			-	-	-	-		0
Post-Excavation Tap Water Sampling (Priority Property)								
Properties with Post-Excavation Tap Samples Collected			0	0	3	9	3	9
Properties provided with a water filter			0	0	4	10	4	10

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Residences Verbally Contacted about Final Water Results Prior to Mailing Letters			-	-	-	-	-	-
Samples that exceed lead (15ppb) or copper (1.3ppm)			-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-Excavation Tap Water Result Letters Sent to Residents			-	-	-	-	-	-
Final Inspection (Priority Properties for Zones 2 and 3)								
Final Inspection Complete			-	-	-	-	-	-
Residences Verbally Contacted about Final Inspection Results Prior to Mailing Letters			-	-	-	-	-	-
Completion Letters Sent to Residents			-	-	-	-	-	-
Personnel								
EPA on-Site							18	
Coordinating Agency on-site							2	
Indiana State Department of Health							-	
Contractors/other personnel							101	
EPA in Emergency Operations Center (EOC)							0	
Total							121	

Section 4: Definition of Terms

Acronym	Definition
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
DOJ	Department of Justice
ECHA	East Chicago Housing Authority
EDD	Electronic Data Deliverable
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ERRS	Emergency Rapid Response Services
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICP	Incident Command Post
ISDH	Indiana State Department of Health
ORC	Office of Regional Counsel
NPL	National Priority List
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
SitRep	Situation Report
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
WCHC	West Calumet Housing Complex
U.S.S Lead	U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc.
XRF	X-ray Fluorescence

